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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3008
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0980
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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

SCA/P FOR OBLAIR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [IO](#) [IT](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PK](#) [PREF](#)
PREL
SUBJECT: GOI TO DISBURSE WFP ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 126694

[¶1.](#) (U) Summary. The GOI will immediately disburse 500,000 euros to assist the WFP in Pakistan. End summary.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) On December 14, ECONOFF met with an official in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to convey the USG request for immediate support for the WFP (reftel). The official, responsible for developmental aid to Pakistan, stated that the GOI has approved the immediate disbursement of 500,000 euros in assistance and the funds will be transferred "within a few days."

[¶3.](#) (SBU) According to the official, these funds are available from a previous commitment and are not/not a new allocation of aid. They are part of Italy's budget allocation in support of the Humanitarian Response Plan focused on Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Provinces (NWFP). The GOI has also approved the disbursement of 2.3 million euros to support UNICEF activities and .8 million euros to support UNIFEM activities in the NWFP.

[¶4.](#) (SBU) He stated that the GOI intends to support the WFP in 2010 but that the level of support is unknown at this time.

[¶5.](#) (SBU) The official informed ECONOFF that the GOI approved 40 million euros in aid (to fund agriculture-related micro-credits) in July 2009 but is still waiting for the GOP to sign the bilateral agreement. He said that the GOP has requested that the GOI "just give us the money and let us use it as we want." The GOI approved a further 20 million euros in aid in November 2009 but, again, the GOP has not signed the necessary bilateral agreement.

THORNE